# REVEREND JOHN McCURRY EARLS

John McCurry Earls was born September 16, 1857 in Macon County, North Carolina. He was the son of John Earls and Elizabeth McCurry Earls who moved from Rutherford County, North Carolina to Macon County, North Carolina about 1855. When they moved to Macon County, North Carolina, they had four children- Sarah J., Noah Grayson, Isaih and Joshua Franklin. John McCurry and Hulda E. were born in Macon County, North Carolina.

John McCurry Earls grew up in the Alarka Community along Alarka Creek, which possibly gave him the love of hunting and fishing that he enjoyed much of his life. His interest in educating himself in his younger years was evident when he followed a wagon carrying school books for 5 miles to obtain his first grammer. His schooling must have been erratic as he, later in life, was back in school, supposedly at the same time as his children.

He was united with Cold Springs Baptist Church in August 1876 just prior to his nineteenth birthday and was baptized by Elder A. A. Justice. On September 21, 1876 he was married by Elder A. A. Justice to Ellen Haseltine Thomasson, the youngest daughter of James Madison Thomasson and Susannah Rebecca Truett Thomasson. To this marriage three children were born - Wesley J. Earls, Sarah Haseltine Earls and Susannah Elizabeth Earls, all born in Swain County, North Carolina. Wesley J. became a Baptist minister, Sarah Haseltine was a school teacher in the Texas Public Schools as well as being a Sunday School teacher, and Susannah Elizabeth became very active in many Baptist educational programs.

Soon after uniting with the church, he felt the call to preach. He became a Licentiate to preach in 1882 and was ordained November 15, 1884 before a presbytery of Elders A. A. Justice, J. A. Woodard and J. S. Smiley.

John McCurry Earls served as a messenger to the Tennessee River Baptist Association in 1877 - 1879 - 1881 and 1882 from Cold Springs Baptist Church. His father, John Earls, had also served as a messenger in 1867 and 1870 from Cold Springs Baptist Church. In 1885 and 1886 John McCurry Earls served as Treasurer of the Association and in 1886 was also a Missionary. In 1887 he served as Moderator of the Association. He served churches as pastor in Swain County, North Carolina until he went to Mineral Bluff, Georgia to become the pastor of the Baptist Church there. He had to return home to Swain County in 1896 when his mother became ill and died. He remained in the Swain County area until 1898.

In June of 1898, Rev. Earls moved to Erath County, Texas and settled at Bluff Dale, Texas. He pastored churches at Paluxy, Tolar and Thurber, Texas. Also, he served as Moderator of the Paluxy Baptist Association.

Reverend John McCurry Earls was a minister for 50 years, having served churches in Texas from the Panhandle to West Texas, the Hill Country and Central Texas. At one time when serving seven counties as a Missionary in West Texas Rev. Earls could drive his ponies all day without ever seeing a single person. He organized many Baptist Churches and did Missionary work in these many different areas. He aided in the establishment of a mission for Mexican people east of Austin, Texas in his last years and worked in it until his death.

On the Fiftieth Anniversary of his becoming a minister, he was honored at Decker Creek Baptist Church that he had organized. The sermon was preached by Dr. W. C. Rains, Chairman of the Baptist Bible Chair of the University of Texas.

Rev. John McCurry Earls, although almost blind in his last years, could quote book, chapter and verse from the Bible for his sermons.

He passed away March 22, 1937 in Travis County, Texas and is buried at Austin Memorial Park beside his wife, Ellen Haseltine, who had died November 21, 1935 in Travis County.

He was survived by his three children:

Wesley J. Earls married Leta Savage and they had 2 sons and 1 daughter
Sarah Haseltine Earls married Rudolph Huber and had 2 sons
Susannah Elizabeth Earls married Carl A. McEachern and had no children

All his children and their spouses are now deceased.

More on the life of Rev. John McCurry Earls can be found in the Texas Baptist Historical Collection, P. O. Box 22000-2E, Ft. Worth, Texas 76122

Memorabillia of his family has been donated to:

Texas Baptist Historical Collection, Ft. Worth, Texas
Mary Hardin Baylor University, Belton, Texas
Tarleton State University, Stephenville, Texas
Historical House Museum, Stephenville, Texas
Taylor Public Library - History Collection, Taylor, Texas

Submitted by:
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